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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY JAN 24 939

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TRUCK CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

POST OFFICE BOX 1100
TWIN FALLS, IDAHO

To Sugar Beet Contractors in Territory Tributary to the Twin Falls Factory

In accordance with the statement contained in the February forecast, the following information is herewith made available concerning the annual migration of the sugar beet leafhopper (white fly) which has been in progress during the past month.

Owing to the very early spring season, the first brood of beet leafhoppers matured the last week in April, at which time the first migration into the cultivated sections occurred. This first flight was exceedingly light and infested only a few fields in the area around Castleford, Buhl and Filer. Within a week, however, a large increase was noted due to continuance of this migration, and by the end of the third week in May had reached proportions which must be considered serious.

In past seasons the migration of leafhoppers into the beet growing area has ordinarily occurred when sugar beets in the territory as a whole were from 50 to 90% thinned. This year the flight began when less than 5% of the beets in the tract had been thinned. Since the effects of curly top are much more severe on small plants than larger ones, this in itself must be considered serious, especially if the outbreak is accompanied by hot dry weather as is the case this year.

At the present moment it is certain that some serious injury will result to many plantings in the Twin Falls-Jerome tract, especially in the case of beets which have not yet been thinned. Information available at the present date does not indicate that the territory east of Hansen in the Twin Falls tract, or south of the Paul Factory area in the Burley-Rupert district are seriously affected, but it is undoubtedly certain that if the flight continues, additional areas will become infested as the season progresses. It should be pointed out that even in seasons with as many leafhoppers as occur this year, some good yields are harvested in individual cases. Where resistant seed has been planted these possibilities will be markedly increased.

It is impossible at present to be certain as to the exact source of the migration this current season. None of the areas previously held responsible are believed adequate to account for the influx to date, and it is now thought that certain areas in the north, which ordinarily do not carry leaf-hoppers through the winter, were responsible for the influx this current season, owing to the exceedingly mild winter experienced even at higher elevations.

Additional information concerning individual fields will be given as far as possible upon request.

Twin Falls, Idaho May 24, 1934 Joseph C. Chamberlin Associate Entomologist Bureau of Entomology U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

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